

(c) whether Government have received a large number of representations from various quarters urging Government to allow PIO's invest in aviation sector; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken on these representations so far and by when a final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per present policy of FDI in the airport sector, 100% FDI is permissible in the Green field airport through automatic route whereas 74% FDI is permitted in existing airports with automatic approval and 100% through FIPB route. However, the FDI in restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports has been capped at 49%. In the Air Transport sector (Domestic Airlines) 49% FDI is permitted through automatic route (100% for NRIs) with no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines. A proposal on PIO investment in air transport services (Domestic Aviation) is under consideration of the Government.

(d) No specific representation on the subject has been received.

Voting rights to Indians living abroad

335. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider providing franchising rights to the Indian Passport holders living abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to bring constitutional amendments to this effect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) With a view to enabling citizens of India who are absenting from their place of ordinary residence owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India to get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls and cast their votes when they are in their constituency at the time of polls, the Government introduced the Representation of the People

[1 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(Amendment) Bill, 2006 in Rajya Sabha on 27.2.2006. The said Bill was referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination. The Committee presented its report to Rajya Sabha/laid in Lok Sabha on the 4th August, 2006. The Report is being examined in the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

Investment by NRIs

336. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called upon the NRIs to impart their rich experience, proven expertise and vast capital resources towards boosting our growth in infrastructure, agriculture, energy and other social sectors;

(b) if so, the foreign investments of overseas Indians in various fields in India during the last three years;

(c) the gestation period generally involved from the time of starting the negotiations and start-up of actual operations; and

(d) whether any complaints or suggestions have been received by our Missions abroad or by MEA, relating to undue bureaucratic delays leading to withdrawing of their proposals?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Separate data on investments made by overseas Indians is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Most of the sectors in India are open to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route. Where the prior approval of Government is required for FDI, Foreign Investment Promotion Board generally accord such approvals within 30 days time. However, the actual gestation period for a project depends on various factors and always differ on case to case basis.